

The Daily Gazetteer.

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HERE is nothing more no-

toriously known than that there is hardly a Man at this Time in the Opposition to the Ministry, from the loud-tongued Orator in the S—c down to Mr. C—the City-Carpenter, whatever Persuasion he may be of, whether Jacobite, or Tory, or

part of the People called Patriots, but has, when his Day has been uppermost, made the best Use of his Time, and got all that he could, whether Place, or Honour, or Job, without the least Scruple or Qualm of Conscience whatever.

And it is likewise equally certain, that not one of such honest Gentlemen, so long as he flourishes under the Sunshine of Power himself, ever complained at least, that the Favours any Man received from the Crown, had a corrupt Influence over his Conscience; tho' at the same Time he voted in every Session with those that were then in the Ministry.

But having made so many vain and fruitless Attempts to get into Power and Employment again, and being at last lost all Hopes or Prospect of ever succeeding, they are all of a sudden become so extreme-

ly and tender in this Point, that they will hardly let it be possible for any Gentleman who has a

Place in Parliament to accept of any Favour from the Crown, or Office under the Ministry, but it must

be a corrupt Agreement to sell his Country.

And therefore these great and uncorrupt Patriots prefer a Law to limit the Power of the Crown in the Distribution of Places to those who have Seats in Parliament, because it seems that a Majority of both Houses of Parliament may be under such a corrupt Influence in the lucrative Employments, and other Bounties distributed among them, as to become absolutely dependent upon, and subservient to the Will and Pleasure of the Crown; and without having the least regard for the Honour and Interest of their Country, but and vote only as dictated to, and directed by the Ministers.

These worthy Persons had never been in any Place of Profit, or received any Favour themselves from the Crown, the extraordinary Zeal which they shew upon this Occasion, how mistaken soever they may be, might have been looked upon as a Mark of Publick Virtue and Love to their Country; but Men who have almost all of them had Places, and one of them Princely Possessions by the Bounty of the Crown, to set up a Clamour against those that are in Employment now, and to charge them with being under a corrupt Influence, and in an infamous Clandestiny against their Country, because they are Friends to the Ministry and for supporting their Ministers, this, I say, is such an unparalleled Piece of Malice as Injustice, as one would think it would be impossible for any to be capable of, that are not as totally destitute of Common Sense, as they must be of Shame.

But when the Spirit of Discord is gone abroad, and the Minds of Men have been exasperated and inflamed by a long Series of the blackest Calumnies and execrable Falshoods against those that have the Conduct of Publick Affairs, let but one of these Publick Quacks mount the Stage, and make his Appearance, and the People will bow down before him, and reverence him as the Oracle of Truth, tho' at the same Time they know him to be the most impudent Impostor that ever was; for where so much Improbable Matter has been heaped together, the spark that falls, will set it in a Flame, and light the Fire of Dissent in a Nation.

However, without inquiring into the past Conduct of these Illustrious Patriots, how inconsistent and ridiculous soever it has been, or looking into their former Views and Designs, how infamous soever they may appear, if the Veil that hides them was drawn over them, let us consider a little this notable Project of the Place-Bill, and see whether, if it were to be effectual, it would be of any Advantage to the Publick, or not, because if it really should be attended with no Publick Utility, after all this Clamour that has been raised about it, it must then be evident to every Man kind, that the Scheme was calculated for no Purpose, but to raise Jealousies and foment

Divisions, and to render the Government odious to the People.

And here it may be proper to observe, that the Craftsman and the Paper called Common Sense, being now entirely in the Hands of very low, illiterate Scribblers, who write merely for Bread, nothing has appeared upon this Subject in either of those Papers, but what was naturally to be expected from such miserable Tools, that is, downright Scurrility and Abuse, and therefore I shall take no manner of Notice of any Thing they have said, but leave them to rail on by themselves, and treat them only as such Fellows ought always to be treated, with Silence and Contempt.

The pretended Design then of a Place-Bill is to guard against Corruption, and to prevent the Ministers of the Crown from having any undue Influence over the Representatives of the People, which it is said, by the Advocates for this Measure, they will always be able to procure, while they have it in their Power to distribute a proper and sufficient Number of Employments among them; and that it is from such an Influence only, that we ought to apprehend the Loss of our Liberties and the Ruin of our Constitution.

This is the Proposition that has been laid down to evince the Reason and Necessity of such a Law; let us inquire what Ground or Foundation there is for it.

And to shew my Impartiality, I shall in the first place very readily admit, what the Advocates for a Place-Bill have made a Matter of such mighty Clamour and Aggravation. That a Seat in Parliament is the Road to Preferment, because, as much a Paradox as it may seem to some, it is undoubtedly very clear, that no other Means are so effectual to preserve that due Balance of Power in the State, which is so necessary for the Support and Security of the Constitution, and to prevent us from falling under the Dominion of a single Person on the one Hand, or what is infinitely worse, the Tyranny of a few popular Leaders, on the other.

For let speculative Men refine, or those that would be thought to have a more than ordinary Share of Virtue, declaim as they please, there will always be wanting some other Incentive to engage People in the Service of their Country, besides merely the Love of the Publick; which tho' a noble, i. g. a very weak Passion, and generally, if not always, acts in Subordination to some other, such as Pride or Ambition, Anger or Malice, Vanity or Avarice, and which, if carefully traced up to their true Source, would be found to be the Spring of most of those Actions, which are imposed upon the World, and put in the gross, for Patriotism and publick Virtue.

But supposing a Man to have ever such good Intentions, or ever so honest a Heart, will the Love of his Country alone make him neglect his private Affairs, to take upon him a Trust which will put him to considerable Expence, and require a great deal of his Time to execute, without the least Prospect of personal Advantage to himself? On the contrary, would not he enter upon it with as much Reluctance, and perform the Functions of it, with as much Indifference and Dislike, as if it was a Matter of no Moment or Concern to him? Would not a Seat in Parliament be look'd upon, like the Office of Sheriff, as a chargeable and troublesome thing, and Men of Figure and Consideration take as much Pains to prevent being elected into the one, as they do now to avoid serving the other? Let any Man lay his Hand upon his Heart, and say candidly and fairly, whether he does not believe that this would be the Case: And what would the Consequence be? Why nothing can be more obvious, than that the House of Commons, which is now, and while the Employments of the State are distributed among its Members, will in general always be composed of Gentlemen of the greatest Distinction, Abilities, and Fortune in the Nation, would in a very little Time be principally filled with Men of low Rank, little Fortune, and mean Talents, who would be obliged to serve the Publick in that Station, when their more rich and powerful Neighbours grew sick and tired of it, as they would most certainly do, as soon as they found that it was attended only with Fatigue and Trouble, and that it was so far from being an Avenue to other Honours and Preferments, that

it was a full Bar to them, and totally excluded them from all.

And in what Manner would a Parliament composed of such Members conduct themselves? Why they would never attend but when they were obliged, and when they did attend, they would have so little Knowledge of the Business of the Publick, and be so negligent and indifferent in it, that they might as well have stayed away; the Consequence of which would be, that, willing at any Rate to get rid of such a troublesome and unprofitable Employ, they wou'd either, like Prae-God Barbone's Parliament, in the time of Cromwell, surrender up their Authority into the Hands of their Sovereign, and acknowledging their own Insufficiency, most humbly request of him to take the Charge of the Government wholly upon himself, and carry it on in such Manner as should be most easy and agreeable to him; or else, the whole Authority of the Parliament would devolve upon a few leading Men, who, if one may judge from the Experience of past Ages, in Instances of the like Kind, would not be long before they crept themselves into so many Sovereigns, and lorded it over their Fellow-Subjects, with all the Power of an absolute Prince, and with all the Insolence and Pride, the Cruelty and Injustice, and that Spirit of Revenge and Malice, which generally predominates among Party Chiefs and popular Orators, in national Councils.

It may perhaps be objected, that there are at this time, and always have been, many Gentlemen of great Distinction, who are entirely independent, and tho' they have no Places or Preferments in the State, yet as constantly and regularly attend their Duty in Parliament, and are as active and vigilant in the Business of the Publick, and in promoting all those Measures which they take to be for the Honour and Advantage of their Country, as those that enjoy the highest and most lucrative Employments under the Crown; and I agree, that there are many such Persons; but will any of these Gentlemen say, that they are never govern'd by any other Motive but their Love to their Country? Will the greatest Part of them all fairly and sincerely declare, that he has no Views, no Prospects of ever succeeding to what others are now in Possession of, and of rising into Power with his Party; if he is so extremely publick-spirited and disinterested, why does he lie himself under the Banners of any Party whatever? Why does he implicitly follow his Leaders? and vote in all Questions, and act in all Affairs of any Consequence, as they vote and act, and form his Conduct to absolutely upon the Model of theirs? Are they always in the right? and are others as perpetually in the wrong? Did he never observe them, upon any Occasion whatever, to be borne away by their Passions, to sacrifice a publick Good to a private Resentment? And can he look into his own Heart, and entirely acquit them of ever being hurried into rash and violent, unjust or injurious Measures, by Prejudice or Kindred to particular Persons? If he cannot do this, and yet has joined in such Measures with them; what can this Condescension of his to his Party be imputed to? He will not pretend, that this is publick Spirit, that this is acting like a Friend to his Country. What then can be his Motive for so extraordinary a Conduct? What, in the Name of Common Sense! but by giving such Instances of his Zeal and Attachment to a Party, to entitle himself to their Regard and Favour, if ever they should happen to force themselves into Power? and therefore, may not a Man's Conduct be as much biased by the Hopes and Expectations of a Place, as by the actual Possession of one? But will any body say, that these independent Gentlemen would be thus vigilant, thus active, these diligent Attenders upon the Business of Parliament, if their Spirits were not kept awake, and their Minds agitated by such Views and Motives?

However, it does not follow, that because Men may consider a Seat in Parliament as the Road to Preferment, that for that Reason they should sacrifice the Publick Interest to their own, or have the less Regard for their Country on that Account; the Hopes of a Place may possibly induce a Man to become a Candidate for a Share in the Legislature of his Country, which perhaps he would never have thought of, if it had not been with a View to such Advantage; and yet he may be a very honest Man, have very

right Intentions, and a sincere and disinterested Love to the Publick; for tho' a Favour may make him a Friend to the Ministry, yet it is a very wild Inference, that it should make him an Enemy to his Country, or prevail with him to give way to any Measures that should be prejudicial to it. This, perhaps, may be said to be Reasoning upon Suppositions; but it may very easily be retorted, that all that has hitherto appeared in favour of the Place-Bill has been reasoning merely upon Suppositions, and very strange and improbable ones too: For can any thing in Nature be more absurd, than to argue, that because many of the Officers in the Government are held by the Members of the Legislature, therefore they must be the Tools in the Hands of a Minister, to make use of as he pleases, to destroy the Constitution; for even supposing them totally destitute of all Principles of Virtue, and that every Spark of publick Spirit was quite extinguished in them, yet if they had not absolutely lost their Senses, as well as their Honour and Probity, can it possibly be conceiv'd, that those who enjoy so many Advantages and Privileges from that Constitution of Government under which they live, should be in the least instrumental to destroy it, when it is impossible for it to receive the least Wound, or feel the least Decay, but their own Weight and Importance must decline in equal Proportion with it.

And who are the Persons that are supposed to act so ridiculous as well as so infamous a Part? Why, Gentlemen of the greatest Talents, the largest Properties, and the best Rank in the Kingdom; for I will venture to say, many of those that have been branded as the Tools of Power, and the Creatures of Corruption, for supporting the Measures of the Ministry, are equal at least, if not superior in all those Respects, even to the foremost among this impious Band of Patriots, who have dared to treat them in so scandalous a Manner! Those lordly, arrogant, self-sufficient Boasters of their own mighty Virtues, Abilities and Possessions!

And after all, what does this wonderful Charge of Corruption, that has been urged with such Violence and Fury against the Majority of the House of Commons amount to? Why truly, that two hundred Members of that Assembly are possessed of Employments, to the Value of two hundred thousand Pounds a Year, which one with another is a thousand Pounds a Year a Man, and which, in Aggravation of that heinous Charge, it is said, and very much insisted on, that it lies in the Power of the Crown to dispossess them of all Pleasure.

Now let any impartial Man look over the List that was published and dispersed thro' the Kingdom, with a most base and infamous Intent, to excite the Rage of the People against their Representatives, and inquire into the Quality, Characters, Estates and Circumstances of the Persons that have been so opprobriously and ignominiously accused of having betray'd the Interest, the Reputation, and the Honour of their Country, for the sake of the Employments which they hold under the Crown, and let him fairly and ingenuously declare, if he can think it possible, that Men so high in Rank, of such large Possessions, and who have so great a Stake depending upon the publick Welfare and Felicity, as the Generality of them have, could be prevail'd upon by so precarious, so temporary, & so inadequate a Consideration, to comply with any Measures that should be destructive or prejudicial to their Country, whose Interest is so intimately connected with their own, the Consequence of which must be, the being reduced themselves to such a State of Servitude and Dependence, as to hold their own Liberties and Possessions by as precarious and uncertain a Tenure, as their Places are held now; which it must be charging them with Want of common Sense, to suppose them not to know.

I am aware it may be objected by the Patriots and their Advocates, that notwithstanding this Way of

* N. B. Supposing the Account given in the List of those that voted for the Convention to be true, that 200 Members possess Places to the Amount of 200000 l. per Annum, and that those Places are each worth 3 Years Purchase, which is the most that Places at Will, subject to so many Chances and Contingencies, can be computed at, the whole Value of them all, at that Rate, will be but 600000 l. now let us, on the other Hand, suppose, that those Members are each with another worth in Money and Estates, only 20000 l. a Piece; (which undoubtedly falls infinitely short of the real Value) their Properties in the Nation, even according to that low Way of Reckoning, will amount to Four Millions of Pounds Sterling: Is it possible then to conceive that any who have so great a Stake, would venture it upon so small a Hazard, as every Man must do, who for the Loss of his Employment, gives any Vote to the Prejudice of his Country?

Reasoning may look colourable and plausible enough, and perhaps, considered generally and abstractedly, may be right; yet, that there is no arguing against Facts, and that it is evident and notorious, that the Majority in the present Parliament must have been under some undue and corrupt Influence, or they could never have acted so constantly and uniformly as they have done, in Support of the Measures of the Administration; many of which, if we are to give Credit to these Men of mighty Virtue, that are so righteous in their own Eyes, have been of the most pernicious and dangerous Tendency to the Liberty of the People, and absolutely inconsistent with the Honour and Interest of the Nation; and therefore, say they, there is no other Way of accounting for the Conduct of those, that have so inseparably attached themselves to such Ministers, and so unanimously supported such Measures, but by the Influence their Impositions had over them.

But this is supposing, that every Body ought to see Things thro' the Medium of Patriot-Partisans and Remonstrants, and to follow the Torrent of Popular Clamours and Prejudices, agitated and fermented by disappointed and angry Men: It is taking for granted, what has never yet been proved, that the Conduct of the Patriots, and their Bands of Jacobites and Tories has been right, and that the Conduct of the Ministers, and the Majority of Both Houses of Parliament has been wrong; unless Noise and Outrage, Riot and Railing, may pass for Proofs of it, which can undoubtedly prove nothing, but the Injustice and Iniquity of a Cause, that wants such Proofs to support it. But without entering into the Merits of any particular Question, about which there have been different Opinions, this one may venture to lay down in general as a very good Rule of judging, in all contested and disputable Points, that it is much more reasonable to presume, the major Part of the Parliament of Great Britain have acted conformably to the true Interest of their Country, than that such a numerous Body of Gentlemen of the greatest Fortune and Distinction in the Nation, should in any Instance whatever, make a Sacrifice of the Publick Good (in which not only their own, but that of all their Property is consequently involved) to so transient, precarious, and fluctuating a Possession, as a Place under the Crown; a Thing utterly incredible, without supposing that there is at least as much Magick as Corruption within the Circle of a Court.

But all this must be looked upon, by every Impartial Man, as a groundless and infamous Calumny, devised by a Set of Men, inflamed with Envy, and imbitter'd with Disappointments, who, with the most amazing Insolence, have alarmed the whole Kingdom, with a very high Charge of Corruption against Men of more Honour, more Integrity, and greater Properties than themselves, because they have refused to follow those impious Demagogues, who are for assuming all the Sense as well as all the Honesty of the Nation to themselves, thro' those dark Tracks of Politicks, which must inevitably have led us into the Abyss of Civil Discord and Confusion, and could have ended in nothing but the total Ruin and Dissolution of the Constitution.

HOME FOR 93.

Deal, Jan. 15. Wind E. In the Downs his Majesty's Ship the Chatham.

Arrived,

At Belfast, the Dolphin, Jeffreys, from New-york.

L O N D O N .

Yesterday their Graces the Duke and Duchess of Norfolk came to their House in Grosvenor-Square, from their Seat at Arundel-Castle in Sussex.

Last Week a Noble Earl near St. James's was pleased to give 1000 l. for the Relief of the Poor.

The Rev. Mr. Pace, Rector of Winnington in Oxfordshire, is presented to the Rectory of Warford in the said County.

Yesterday the Right Hon. the Countess of Peterborough lay dangerously ill at her House in Pall-mall.

Yesterday the following Prizes were drawn in the Bridge-Lottery; viz. No. 52226, 1000 l. No. 29032, 500 l. No. 12792, 28149, 42973, 52479, 64572, 53307, 47602, 61128, each 100 l. No. 29140, 62731, 34701, 47887, 57371, 38151, 44831, 18075, 6744, each 50 l.

Last Night the Corpses of Dr. Turner, Doctor of Musick, one of the Gentlemen belonging to his Ma-

jecty's Chapel Royal, and one of the Cheirifters belonging to St. Peter's Westminster, and his Wife, minister-Abbey. All the Gentlemen belonging to the Choir attended, and sung before them.

Yesterday Morning a Man who the Night before was hired to look after the Printing-Booths set up on the Ice at Whitehall, was found frozen to Death.

He was afterwards carried to the Bone-house in St. Martin's Lane; and this Day the Coroner's Inquest will sit on him.

On Tuesday last a Woman who would cross the River Thames from the Old Swan to Pepper-Alley, going too near the Sterns of the bridge, tho' advised to the contrary, the ice broke, and she fell in and was drowned.

Yesterday 25 Prisoners were try'd at the Old Bailey; 16 were cast for Transportation, 8 were acquitted, and one was capitally convicted, viz. John Lincoln, for assaulting and robbing David Paine, Esq; in Covent Garden. Among the Persons accused were Sarah Burges and Ann Hill, (after a long Trial) of the Globe Tavern in Drury-Lane, for assaulting and robbing Mr. Moody of a s. 6 d. some Wine and other Things, in the said Tavern.

High Water this Day Morning at London Bridge. 3 01 28 01 50

Bank Stock 138 1-half. India 152 1-half. South Sea 96 1-half. Old Assu. 109 3-8ths. New Assu. 109 3-8ths. Three per Cent. 100. Seven per Cent. Loan 110 7-8ths. Five per Cent. ditto 88 3-4ths. Royal Assurance 88 1-8th. London Assurance 11 1-8th. African 13 1-half. India Bonds 41 24 1-2 Prem. South Sea ditto — Bank Circulation 21. 17 s. 6 d. to 31. Premium. Salt Tolls 1-half to 1 Prem. English Copper 31. 14 60 Welsh ditto 150. Three 1-half per Cent. Exchange Orders 101. Three per Cent. ditto 94 1-half. Million Bank 114. Equivalent 110 1-8th. Lottery Tickets 141 50.

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L O N D O N :

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